

Vision Zero Community Pairing Pilot Program: Visits between the Cities of Richmond, Virginia and Tampa, Florida

In early 2022, FHWA kicked off a pilot to pair Vision Zero cities in either a mentor/mentee or equal peer format. As part of this one-year Vision Zero Community Pairing Pilot Program, staff from each community pair has an opportunity to host or visit one another at their respective locations. The purpose of this multi-day, in-person visit is to create a chance to learn and experience Vision Zero practices in operation first-hand and to strengthen the partnership between the paired communities.

In April 2022, Michael (Mike) Sawyer from the City of Richmond, Virginia Department of Public Works visited the City of Tampa, Florida Mobility Department. Mike is serving in a mentor role to Alana Brasier in Tampa. During the trip, he participated in several meetings with different department staff and completed site visits to some of the new Vision Zero projects that Tampa has implemented. During this visit, Mike shared lessons learned from Richmond's experience and helped identify additional opportunities for Tampa to explore.

The next month, Tampa Mobility Department staff members Alana Brasier, Kelly Fearon, and Danni Jorgenson traveled to Richmond to observe and learn how Richmond implements effective countermeasures and strategies to improve roadway safety. During this visit, Tampa staff met with staff from various departments and organizations in Richmond such as the Greater Richmond Transit Company, Richmond Community Health Department, and Richmond Police Department. Tampa staff learned about transit improvement efforts, such as bus priority lanes and fare free activities; resurfacing; and partnering with advocates and the public health community. Alana described the visit as "inspirational" and looks forward to additional conversations with the Richmond Department of Public Works staff to learn more about some of the topics discussed during their visit. She also felt that it was valuable for her manager, Danni, to participate in the visit to help her understand what Tampa Vision Zero may be able to accomplish.

Both Richmond and Tampa staff appreciated the opportunity to visit and learn from one another in-person. They noted that participating in the Vision Zero Community Pairing Pilot Program builds credibility in their respective programs, especially among their respective agency leaderships and the advocacy groups with which they work.

Richmond to Tampa Site Visit Highlights

- Discussion of overarching Vision Zero strategy in Tampa
- Tour of projects around Tampa
- Identification of opportunities for quick builds and resurfacing projects
- Planning for Safe Streets and Roads for All grant and other funding opportunities
- Discussion about land use and transportation
- Best practices and opportunities for speed management and neighborhood traffic calming
- Opportunities for improving data and data collection metrics

Tampa to Richmond Site Visit Highlights

- Tour with transit and planning partners
- Meeting with federal and state partners
- Lunch with non-profit partners
- Meeting with department partners on resurfacing, quick builds, and speed management practices
- Discussion about funding and implementation of projects
- Meeting with health and active transportation partners
- Discussion about right-of-way, traffic maintenance, and asset management
- Meeting with enforcement and emergency response partners